Eleven Facts about Jesus (peace be upon him) in the Islamic Teachings

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NO DOUBT THIS LIFE IS AN EXAMINATION

WHICH NEEDS YOUR FULL CONSIDERATION

AS TO WHAT YOU WILL TAKE TO

YOUR FINAL DESTINATION

ONLY TRUE BELIEF AND GOOD DEEDS ARE

YOUR WAY TO SALVATION

(*Muhammad Sherif*)

Contents

About the word *'Lord'*

The word *lord* in English has several related meanings. The original meaning is ‘master’ or ‘ruler’ and in this sense it is often used to refer to human beings: ‘the lord of the mansion’ or ‘*Lord* So-and-So’ (in the United Kingdom, for example). The word *Lord* with a capital L is used in the lexicon of Islam to refer to the One and Only God – Allah. In Islam, there is no ambiguity about the meaning of this word. While it is true that one may occasionally use the word *lord* (whether capitalized or not) to refer to a human being, in Islamic discourse the reference of this term is always clear from the context. Whereas for Christians, Hindus and other polytheists, the word *Lord* with a capital L may refer to Allah, to Jesus or to some imagined deity, for Muslims, there can be no plurality of meaning. Allah alone is the Lord, and the Lord is Allah – not Jesus, not Rama, not any other being.

The Editor

About the word '*Allah*'

Although the English word ‘God’ has often been used interchangeably in this book with the word *Allah*, there is a difference. ‘Allah’ is the word in Arabic that is translated as ‘God’. However, ‘Allah’ has a much more precise meaning than ‘God’. ‘Allah’ is not merely an Arabic term for the word ‘god’. Instead, the root word of the word ‘Allah’ is *ilâh*, which means ‘a god’. There are countless numbers of made-up ‘gods’, but only One True God whose name is Allah. The word ‘Allah’ literally means ‘the worshipped’. Allah is, thus, the proper name for the **only Being that is worthy of worship**, the True Creator of the Universe. By saying ‘Allah’, Muslims are, in essence, negating every other entity which people wrongfully worship. The name ‘Allah’ is how God Almighty has referred to Himself in the Qur’an, and how Prophet Muhammad also referred to Him. Therefore, in this work, the term ‘Allah’ will often be used in reference to this One and Only God, who is worthy of worship.

Introduction

Allah (*Subhânahu wa Ta'âlâ* - Glorified and Exalted is He) is the Most-Kind, the Most Compassionate. He did not leave people to go astray. Indeed, He sent prophets to tell people who had created them, why they had been created, what is His right on them [being their Lord], what are the rights of human beings towards Him if they obey Him, what are His attributes, how to worship Him, what is the fact behind death, and what is going to happen after death: paradise for those who follow His messengers and hell-fire for those who don't.

Allah, the most-kind and Wise, did not give a chance to the followers of Jesus (*'alayhi as-salâm* - peace be upon him) to forever suffer, split and conflict between themselves on the reality of his personality. Indeed, He sent Prophet Muhammad (*salla Allâhu 'alayhi wa sallam* - blessings and peace be upon him) to unveil the fact and solve what people perceived as a mystery or a point of great division.

This humble work sheds light on the personality of a great prophet, Prophet Jesus, son of Mary (peace be upon them both). It details his characteristics, and clarifies all the doubts about his personality by clearly referring the reader to specific references in the Bible and other Islamic sources. These have

been supported with theoretical and logical proofs which ultimately set Prophet Jesus, in the mind of the fair reader, at the correct level without committing any extremes or deviation.

Before I leave you with the book, I would like to thank all those respected scholars, who gave me a chance to learn and quote extensively from their books, especially Dr. Jamal Badawi, Dr. Bilal Philips, Dr. Ahmed Deedat, Dr. Naji Arfaj and Brother Muhammad bin Abdullah Caraballo. My small contribution is mainly a compilation of passages from their wonderful works.

With this short, I leave you to peruse the book.

Kind regards

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Eleven Facts about Jesus in the Islamic Teachings

The Qur'an does not present a detailed biography of Jesus. However, it does highlight the important aspects of his birth along with his miracles, his mission and his ascension. The Qur'anic account of Jesus' ministry confirms most of his miracles mentioned in the Bible; it even identifies some which are not mentioned in the Bible. What we know about Prophet Jesus Christ can be divided into two topics: his personality and his message. Eleven facts have been detailed below.

What you should know about Jesus

1. The status of Jesus in Islam

Islam teaches that Prophet Jesus is one of the most respected prophets because of his efforts in spreading the word of Allah. It displays a true spirit of love towards him and his mother, Mary. There is not a single disparaging remark against Prophet Jesus or any other prophet in the entire Qur'an or other Islamic literature or Islamic history books. An evidence of praise for Jesus is the fact that his story along with that of his mother's has been mentioned in three places in the Qur'an:

chapters 3, 4 and 19. In fact, an entire chapter of the Qur'an [chapter 19], is named after 'Maryam' [Mary] in her honour.[1]

Another evidence of praise is that the name of Prophet Jesus has been mentioned 25 times in the Qur'an; this is in contrast to the mention of Prophet Muhammad, whose name is mentioned only five times. This proves that Islam honours all prophets for the message they have in common; it did not discard one prophet with the advent of another.

Jesus has been referred to in the Qur'an with many titles, *Ibn Maryam* [son of Mary], the Messiah [the anointed one], *'Abdullâh* [slave of Allah][2], and *Rasool Allâh* [the messenger of Allah].

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1. Readers should consider that in all of the 66 books of the Protestant and 73 of the Roman Catholics, this honour has not been given to Mary in the Christian Bible. Also, not one of them is named after Mary or her son. [Deedat, Dr. Ahmad, *Christ in Islam*, Durban, RSA: Islamic Propagation Centre International p. 11]. It is also noteworthy that no chapter in the Qur'an is named after any of Prophet Muhammad's wives or daughters.

2 The meaning of slavery is linked to the meaning of worship, which is total submission and complete obedience to Allah's commandments in one's belief, intentions, statements, and actions. This can be achieved by striving to do what Allah has encouraged, avoiding what He has forbidden, and worshipping Him alone according to His teachings. This is the true meaning of the worship of Allah or 'slavery to Allah' in Islam. May Allah enable his followers to achieve this level of worship. Amen.

This praise and glorification agrees with what Jesus is reported to have said in John 14:16[3] describing the prophet who would succeed him: “He will glorify me.”

2. The Beginning of his Lineage

The Qur’anic account of Jesus starts with the story of his mother, Mary.

When she conceived her, Mary’s mother vowed to dedicate her unborn child to the worship of Allah and His service in Jerusalem.

Mary grew up to be very righteous. She dedicated herself to the worship of Allah and was supplied with provision from Him. Therefore, it is no mystery as to why she was chosen to be the mother of Jesus. The Qur’anic verses inform us:

> ﴾[Mention, O Muhammad], when the wife of ‘Imrân said: My Lord, indeed I have pledged to You what is in my womb, consecrated [for Your service], so accept this from me. Indeed, You are the Hearing, the Knowing. But when she delivered her, she said: My Lord, I have delivered a female – and Allah was most knowing of what she delivered – and the male is not

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3. New International Version (NIV) and the King James Version (KJV)

like the female; I have named her Mary, and I seek refuge for her in You and [for] her descendants from Satan, the expelled [from the mercy of Allah]. So her Lord accepted her with good acceptance and caused her to grow in a good manner and put her in the care of Zechariah. Every time Zechariah entered upon her in the prayer chamber, he found with her provision. He said: O Mary, from where is this [coming] to you? She said: It is from Allah. Indeed, Allah provides for whom He wills without account.﴾ *(Qur'an 3: 35-37)*[4]

It is interesting to note that when the mother of Mary delivered her child, she was a bit disappointed to discover that she did not have a son. This was because she had always wished for her child to be dedicated to the worship of Allah. However, little did she know that this very child would be extremely righteous, and end up being the mother of Jesus himself. This was better for her than a son, hence, Allah's words: ﴿…and Allah was most knowing of what she delivered…﴾

[4] The translations of the meanings of the Qur'anic verses in this book have been taken from: Saheeh International. *The Qur'an: Arabic Text with Corresponding English Meaning*. Jeddah: Abul Qâsim Publishing House, 1997.

3. The Status of Mary

Mary is very highly respected in Islam. Allah has said:

﴾And [mention] when the angels said: O Mary, indeed Allah has chosen you and purified you and chosen you above the women of the worlds. O Mary, be devoutly obedient to your Lord and prostrate and bow with those who bow [in prayer]. That is from the news of the unseen which We reveal to you, [O Muhammad]…﴿ *(Qur'an 3: 42-44)*

4. The News about Jesus

When Mary approached adulthood, she was informed about the honour of bearing this noble son well before his birth. It was the angel Gabriel, who appeared in front of her with this news. The following verses in the Qur'an describe the dialogue between Mary and the angel:

﴾[And mention] when the angels said: O Mary, indeed Allah gives you good tidings of a word from Him, whose name will be the Messiah, Jesus, the son of Mary - distinguished in this world and the hereafter and among those brought near [to Allah]. He will speak to the people in the cradle and in maturity and will be of the righteous. She said: My Lord, how will I

have a child when no man has touched me? [The angel] said: Such is Allah; He creates what He wills. When He decrees a matter, He only says to it: Be, and it is.﴿ *(Qur'an 3: 45-47)*

5. The Birth of Jesus

Mary conceived this child miraculously [the first miracle] and retired to a distant place where she waited for the birth of her child. This amazing story has been related to us in chapter 19 of the Qur'an: *soorah Maryam*:

﴾So she conceived him, and she withdrew with him to a remote place. And the pains of childbirth drove her to the trunk of a palm tree. She said: O, I wish I had died before this and was in oblivion, forgotten. But he called her from below her: Do not grieve; your Lord has provided beneath you a stream. And shake toward you the trunk of the palm tree; it will drop upon you ripe, fresh dates. So eat and drink and be contented. And if you see from among humanity anyone, say: Indeed, I have vowed to the Most Merciful abstention, so I will not speak today to [any] man.﴿ *(Qur'an 19: 22-26)*

6. Subsequent Miracles of Jesus

Prophet Jesus was blessed with the ability to perform many miracles. This supported his claim that he was a prophet sent by Allah. Allah Almighty has said in the Qur'an:

> ﴾…And We gave Jesus, the son of Mary, clear proofs and supported him with the pure spirit…﴿ *(Qur'an 2: 87)*

Muslims do not hesitate to accept the fact that Jesus performed miracles. At the same time, Muslims do not elevate Jesus to the position of Allah or describe him as the 'son of God'. They do not consider him to be anything more than a divinely-inspired man: a messenger and prophet of Allah.

The same applies to all the other prophets, since many of them were blessed with different miracles as well.

The First Miracle

The first miracle associated with Jesus was that he was born from a mother without any human intervention [father]. Allah gave the divine command 'Be' and he was created.

The Qur'an has mentioned the miraculous creation of both Adam and Jesus in the following verse:

﴾Indeed, the example of Jesus to Allah is like that of Adam. He created Him from dust; then He said to him: Be, and he was.﴿ *(Qur'an 3: 59)*

The Qur'an has mentioned that Jesus' miraculous birth did not change his status as a human; that is, he did not evolve from a human being to become Allah or a son of Allah. This is because, rationally, if that had been the case, then Adam would have had a greater right to such an honour, since he was born without a human father or mother.

Another Miracle was that Allah gave Jesus the ability to talk in his infancy, a blessing which helped save his mother from the harsh slander of her own community. He is one of only three people whom Allah chose for this. This remarkable story has been narrated in the Qur'an:

﴾Then she brought him to her people, carrying him. They said: O Mary, you have certainly done a thing unprecedented. O sister of Aaron, your father was not a man of evil, nor was your mother unchaste. So she pointed to him. They said: How can we speak to one who is in the cradle a child? [Jesus] said: Indeed, I am the servant of Allah. He has given me the scripture and made me a prophet. And He has made me blessed wherever I am and has enjoined upon me prayer and

zakâh as long as I remain alive, and [made me] dutiful to my mother, and He has not made me a wretched tyrant. And peace is on me the day I was born and the day I will die and the day I am raised alive.》 *(Qur'an 19: 27-33)*

Subsequent Miracles

Other miracles performed by Jesus have also been mentioned in the Qur'an:

《[The day] when Allah will say: O Jesus, son of Mary, remember My favour upon you and upon your mother when I supported you with the pure spirit and you spoke to the people in the cradle and in maturity[5]; and [remember] when I taught you writing and wisdom[6], the Torah and the Gospel[7], and when you designed from clay [what was] like the form of a bird with My permission, then you breathed into it, and it became a bird with My permission; and you healed the blind and the leper with My permission; and when

5. This means that Jesus called people to worship Allah both while he was a baby in the cradle and when he reached adulthood.

6. 'Wisdom' here means the correct and profound understanding of religion.

7. It is the original form of revelation given to Jesus (as). According to Qur'anic exegesis, Jesus had memorised both these scriptures.

you brought forth the dead with My permission; and when I restrained the children of Israel from [killing] you when you came to them with clear proofs and those who disbelieved among them said: This is not but obvious magic.﴾ *(Qur'an 5: 110)*

Indeed, the Islamic account of the miracles bestowed on Jesus describes more miracles than those known to Christians. Also, facts 10 and 11 below are two more miracles associated with Jesus and his role as the Messiah.

Important Note

As shown in the previous verse, it was emphasised after mentioning each miracle that whenever Jesus performed a miracle, he informed people that it was by Allah's permission. He made it clear to his followers that he was not performing the miracle by himself. As Dr. Philips points out:

> There are texts in the New Testament which confirm that Jesus did not act on his own. Jesus is quoted in John 5:30 saying: I can of mine own self do nothing...In acts 2:22, Paul writes: Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and

signs **which God did through him** in your midst, as you yourselves know...[8]

7. Human qualities of Jesus

Islam forbids the deification of human beings [going to excess in the exaltation of humans—prophets or otherwise—to the point where they perceive them as divine]. Addressing both the Jews and the Christians, Allah has said in the Qur'an:

﴾O people of the scripture[9], do not commit excess in your religion or say about Allah except the truth. The Messiah, Jesus, the son of Mary, was but a messenger of Allah and His word which He directed to Mary and a soul [created at a command] from Him. So believe in Allah and His messengers. And do not say: Three; desist - it is better for you. Indeed, Allah is but one God. Exalted is He above having a son. To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth. And sufficient is Allah as Disposer of affairs. Never would the Messiah disdain to be a servant of Allah, nor would the angels near [to Him].

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8. Philips, Abu Ameenah Bilal, *The True Message of Jesus Christ*, Riyadh: International Islamic Publishing House, 2006, p.45.

9. Allah begins this sacred verse with a word of respect, whereby the Jews and the Christians have been addressed as learned people, who have received revelation in the form of scripture.

> And whoever disdains His worship and is arrogant - He will gather them to Himself all together. And as for those who believed and did righteous deeds, He will give them in full their rewards and grant them extra from His bounty. But as for those who disdained and were arrogant, He will punish them with a painful punishment, and they will not find for themselves besides Allah any protector or helper. O humankind, there has come to you a conclusive proof from your Lord, and We have sent down to you a clear light. So those who believe in Allah and hold fast to Him - He will admit them to mercy from Himself and bounty and guide them to Himself on a straight path.﴿ *(Qur'an 4: 171-175)*

Prophet Muhammad also warned against the deification of humans. He said: <<O people, beware of going to excesses in religion, for verily people before you were destroyed for going to excesses in religion.>> (Recorded by Ibn Mâjah and an-Nasâ'i with a sound chain of narration)

Being a human prophet, Jesus did not ask people to worship him. Allah has informed us in the Qur'an that on the day of judgement, He will gather all the nations in front of Himself and will ask the messengers how they were received by

their peoples and what they said to them. Among those who are going to be questioned is Jesus :

﴾And [beware the day] when Allah will say: O Jesus, son of Mary, did you say to the people: Take me and my mother as deities besides Allah? He will say: Exalted are You! It was not for me to say that to which I have no right. If I had said it, You would have known it. You know what is within myself, and I do not know what is within Yourself. Indeed, it is You who is Knower of the unseen. I said not to them except what You commanded me - to worship Allah, my Lord and your Lord. And I was a witness over them as long as I was among them; but when You took me up, You were the Observer over them, and You are, over all things, Witness. If You should punish them - indeed they are Your servants; but if You forgive them - indeed it is You who is the Exalted in Might, the Wise. Allah will say: This is the day when the truthful will benefit from their truthfulness. For them are gardens [in paradise] beneath which rivers flow, wherein they will abide forever, Allah being pleased with them, and they with

Him. That is the great attainment.﴾ *(Qur'an 5: 116-119)*

8. Jesus' Prophethood

The Islamic view of Jesus is a moderate one, as it lies between the two extremes. The Jews rejected Jesus in his role as a prophet of Allah and called him an impostor. The Christians, on the other hand, considered him to be the son of God [Allah] and 'God-incarnate' in some cases; thus, they began worshipping him. Islam considers Jesus as one of the greatest prophets of Allah. Allah has said:

﴿The Messiah, son of Mary, was not but a messenger; [other] messengers have passed on before him. And his mother was a supporter of truth[10]. They both used to eat food. Look how We make clear to them the signs; then look how they are deluded.﴾ *(Qur'an 5: 75)*

9. The Mission of Jesus

Now one might ask: what was the real mission of Jesus according to the Qur'an?

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10. She never claimed that she was a mother of God, or that her son was a God. She was a pious, virtuous woman.

The answer is: Jesus propagated the message of monotheism, worship of Allah alone as prescribed in the Gospels. He worked hard to propagate this message, and invited everyone to it. Allah has said:

﴾He will speak to the people in the cradle and in maturity and will be of the righteous.﴿ *(Qur'an 3: 46)*

The prophecy of Muhammad as a successor to Christ was a part of Jesus' message. Allah says in the Qur'an:

﴾And [mention] when Jesus, the son of Mary, said: O children of Israel, indeed I am the messenger of Allah to you confirming what came before me of the Torah and bringing good tidings of a messenger to come after me, whose name is Ahmad. But when he came to them with clear evidences, they said: This is obvious magic.﴿ *(Qur'an 61: 6)*

Though the Bible has been altered a great deal, it contains remnants of the original true message revealed to Prophet Jesus. In this regard, the messenger of whom Jesus gave glad tidings and prophecies is still referred to in both the old and new testaments of the Bible.

Jesus was a link in a long line of prophets and messengers sent by Allah to various civilizations and nations, whenever

they needed guidance or deviated from the teachings of Allah. Jesus was sent by Allah especially to preach to the Jews, who had deviated from the teachings of Moses and other messengers. Just as he was supported by Allah miraculously in his conception, birth and childhood, he was also supported by numerous miracles to prove that he was a messenger from Allah. However, a majority of Jews rejected his ministry.

It must be noted that Jesus Christ, son of Mary, was the last in the line of prophets sent to the Jewish people.

10. Jesus' Ascension

Jesus' ascension is the last miracle which was given to him while he was on the earth. The Jews attempted to kill him. Allah replaced him with another person who resembled him. Jesus was neither killed nor crucified; rather, he was raised to Allah. It was the other person, bearing resemblance to him, who was killed. To this day, the Christians believe that Jesus himself was the one who was killed. Allah has said in the Qur'an:

﴾And [for] their saying: Indeed, we have killed the Messiah, Jesus, the son of Mary, the messenger of Allah. And they did not kill him, nor did they crucify him; but [another] was made to resemble him to them. And indeed, those who differ over it are in doubt about it. They have no knowledge of it except the

following of assumption. And they did not kill him, for certain. Rather, Allah raised him to Himself. And ever is Allah Exalted in Might and Wise.》 *(Qur'an 4: 157-158)*

11. The Second Coming of Jesus

In the Islamic teachings, there is clear evidence indicating the second coming of Jesus before the final hour; this is an additional and final miracle for Jesus. He will return not as God, as the Christians believe, but as Jesus (as), Allah's messenger and slave, as he has always been. The purpose of his coming will be to correct the misconceptions surrounding his message and mission. According to a statement of Prophet Muhammad, he will stay for forty years, and these will be the happiest years of life on this earth. During that time, those who had misconceptions about him will correct their understanding and believe in him as a messenger, not as the son of God [Allah].

It was narrated by Abu Hurayrah (*radiya Allâhu 'anhu* - may Allah be pleased with him)[11] that the Messenger of Allah said:

11. Abu Hurayrah was one of the closest Companions of Prophet Muhammad. It should be noted that the words, actions, and tacit approvals of Prophet Muhammad have been narrated by the Companions and have subsequently been recorded. A Companion, according to the majority of scholars, is one who has met personally with Prophet Muhammad during his lifetime and was a Muslim at the

<<By the one in whose hand is my soul, it will not be long before the son of Mary descends amongst you, a just judge and ruler. He will break the cross, kill the swine and abolish the tribute paid by Jews and Christians. Money will be so plentiful that no one will accept it. At that time, a single prostration will be better than this world and everything in it.[12]

Abu Hurayrah then said: Read if you wish [the following verse of the Qur’an]:

﴿And there is none from the people of the scripture[13] but that he will surely believe in Jesus before his death. And on the day of resurrection he will be against them a witness.﴾ *(Qur’an 4: 159)*>> (Bukhari)

<<In another narration, Abu Hurayrah said: Among the things which Prophet Muhammad was recorded to have said regarding Prophet Jesus’ return is the following: There will be no prophet between me and Jesus, and he will return. When he does, you will know him. He will be a well-built man of ruddy complexion and he will descend wearing a two-piece garment. His hair will look wet, though no water touched it. He will fight

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time of meeting him. Thus, one will find much of the history of the Prophet through such narrations, called the Hadith.

12. This is because with the advent of Jesus (as), people will know with certainty that the final hour is very near.

13. Jews and Christians

people to establish Islam and he will break the cross, kill the swine and cancel the *jizyah*[14]. During his time, Allah will destroy all religions except Islam and the Antichrist[15] will be killed. Jesus will remain on earth for forty years, and when he dies, Muslims will pray the funeral prayer for him.>> (A sound hadith recorded by Abu Dâwood)

Jesus' return will be one of the signs of the day of judgement. It will be the final miracle given to him before he dies.

2. A Call to Reason

A concluding suggestion: consider what everyone has in common. Come, let us reason together,

> ﴾Say: O people of the scripture, come to a word that is equitable between us and you - that we will not worship except Allah and not associate anything with Him and not take one another as lords instead of Allah. But if they turn away, then say: **Bear witness**

14. It is a tax taken from the Christians and Jews in lieu of living under Muslim protection.
15. The Antichrist is also called the 'false Christ'; he is a man who will claim that he is Allah, and he will be followed by ignorant people, but Prophet Jesus will find him and kill him.

that we are Muslims [submitting to Him].﴾ *(Qur'an 3: 64)*

{People of the scripture} is the respectful title given to the Jews and the Christians in the Noble Qur'an. Muslims are being commanded to invite them with noble and respectful words: O people of the book, O learned people, O people who claim to be the recipients of Divine revelation of a holy scripture, let us gather onto a common platform: that we worship none but Allah, because none but Him is worthy of worship, because He is our Lord and Cherisher, our Sustainer and Evolver, worthy of all praise, prayer and devotion.

These truths are basic and an integral part of any human being's intellect. Sort through the layers of indoctrination which hide this simple fact, and one will be able to see that deep down, every human being retains the simple and obvious concept of Allah. In essence, every human being agrees that there is only One God worthy of worship, One God who is free of partners, helpers, or anything that is falsely ascribed to Him.

3. This is it

In this book, you have been shown the right path, and Allah has given you the ability to distinguish right from wrong; He has also given you the freedom of choice as to whether or not to accept the message of Islam. If you accept His call, you will be warmly welcomed into paradise. If you reject it, you will end up with the biggest loss ever imagined: the loss of paradise and the guarantee of abiding in hellfire for all eternity. Take a moment to comprehend what **eternity** really means. It is a very frightening realisation.

To those who have been faithful Christians, you are warmly welcomed to embrace Islam because:

- Jesus asked his followers to follow Muhammad whenever he appeared;
- When Jesus comes back before the end of this world, he will follow Muhammad and abide by his teachings.

Yes, since Jesus called his true followers to follow it while he was on the earth, and will follow Islam when he comes back, all faithful Christian should follow Islam as well.

To those who have been believing Jews, remember that Abraham and Moses surrendered themselves completely to their

Lord, whether they called Him Elohenu, God, or Allah. All pride in ethnicity or ancestry is vain: what will matter in the end is your individual relationship with your Creator. This means total submission—Islam.

To those of other faiths or who, until now, did not feel that they had any faith at all, consider this message **now**, without any reluctance or hesitation, before it is too late; **before death overtakes you**. It can be soon. Who knows?

4. Remember this

Some people are not able to find the truth because of their blind commitment to their beliefs. Their tenacious adherence is usually not based on an intellectual understanding of the teachings, but on powerful cultural and emotional influences. Because they were brought up in a particular family or society, they firmly cling to the beliefs of that group, believing that they are upholding the truth.

To accurately identify the true religion, an objective point of view must be maintained, which does not allow our emotions to cloud our vision and thereby, blind us to the truth. Indeed, we must look at all issues rationally so that we can separate truth from falsehood; then, we judge it and follow it

with sincere prayers to the Almighty to guide us to the right path.

Being presented with the previous proofs, whoever has a sane intellect can analyse and reason; a crossroad has been reached, in which Allah [Glorified be He] calls all people to follow the clear, straight road and avoid all the foggy, zigzag ones. The right path has now become distinct from the wrong path, as Allah has said in the Qur'an:

﴾There shall be no compulsion in [acceptance of] the religion. The right course has become clear from the wrong. So whoever disbelieves in tâghoot and believes in Allah has grasped the most trustworthy handhold with no break in it. And Allah is Hearing and Knowing.﴿ *(Qur'an 2: 256)*

It is my duty and responsibility, as a member of this great planet, and as the one who has submitted my free will to the law and commandments of the Supreme Being, to urge all human beings to stay away from the worship of false deities, to stop putting their faith in statues, sphinxes, figures, amulets, talismans, horseshoes, and any other objects that have been manufactured by humans or created by God. After repentance, a person should submit completely to the will of Allah, the Only God of the Universe.

Irrespective of how much money, prestige, position, and power an unbeliever might have possessed in this life, he/she will never have enough to buy his/her entrance to paradise. In the hereafter, the poorest from among the inhabitants of earth, who had testified to the truth of Islam, will be far happier and more dignified than the richest person who did not accept the message of Islam.

Rejecting Allah's message is the biggest sin that one can commit. For this reason, while the soul of an unbeliever is still in his/her body, the wise man/woman should quickly utilise the occasion: he/she is still alive to accept Allah's message before it is too late. The time for repentance is limited. Once death arrives, it is no longer possible to obtain forgiveness.[16] Allah has said in the Qur'an:

﴾[For such is the state of the disbelievers], until, when death comes to one of them, he says: My Lord, send me back that I might do righteousness in that which I left behind. No! It is only a word he is saying…[17]﴿ *(Qur'an 23: 99-100)*

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16. Compiled from Caraballo (2009) *My Great Love for Jesus Led Me to Islam.*

17. The unbeliever will ask for a 'second chance' when he/she sees the angels ready to punish him/her, but it is too late; s/he was given

Religion is, without question, the most important aspect of a person's life as it impacts whether or not a person is rightly guided; it follows, therefore, that choosing the true faith is the most important personal decision one must make, and this decision needs to be based on clarity and total conviction. When it comes to matters of religion and creed, nothing must be left to chance. This is because the one who is truly guided–as opposed to the one who is not—will surely find eternal happiness in the hereafter!

5. How to become a Muslim

Every religion has its own requirements for conversion: If someone wants to become Jewish, he/she needs to be able to pledge all of the following:

1) To enter the 'eternal covenant' between God and the people of Israel and to become a Jew of his/her own free will;

2) To accept Judaism to the exclusion of all other religious faiths and practices, which means to deny the prophethood

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the time, the intellect and the guidance, but s/he neglected it for years till time ran out.

of Jesus and Muhammad and to deny the revelations that God sent to humankind through them;

3) To pledge undivided loyalty to Judaism and to the Jewish people under all circumstances;

4) To commit to learning the Torah and Jewish knowledge; and

5) To raise his/her children as Jews.

To be a Christian one must:

1) Believe that God [Allah] has a partner, a mother, and a son;

2) Believe that every newborn baby is born sinful;

3) Believe that God became a man and descended to the earth to die for the sins of the people;

4) Deny the prophethood of Muhammad publicly; and

5) Deny that the Qur’an is revelation from Allah.

However, to become a Muslim is simple:

1) Bear witness that no one deserves worship except Allah [disown all false gods];

2) Bear witness that Muhammad is His messenger;

3) Believe in all the six articles of faith; and

4) Worship Allah as taught by Prophet Muhammad.

6. To Sum it Up…

This book has clarified the status of Prophet Jesus as mentioned in the revealed Islamic sources [the Holy Qur’an and the traditions of Prophet Muhammad] as well as in the intact remnants of the Holy Bible which was revealed to Prophet Jesus (as).

May the light of truth shine in our minds and in our hearts. May it lead us to peace and certitude in this life and eternal bliss in the hereafter.

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Appendix

For Further Information about Islam

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Online information about Islam:

You may also visit the following websites for updated information and a wealth of reading material:

www.islamfortoday.com

www.islam-guide.com

www.islamonline.net

www.islam-qa.com

www.islamtomorrow.com

www.missionislam.com

www.themodernreligion.com

www.witness-pioneer.org

www.youngmuslims.ca

Online bookstores:

www.al-hidaayah.co.uk

www.dar-us-salam.com

www.iiphonline.com

www.soundvision.com

Glossary of Islamic Terms

soorah or *soorat*	سورة	chapter of the Qur'an
Zakât (zakâh)	زكاة	obligatory charity: an 'alms tax' on wealth payable by Muslims and to be distributed to poor Muslims who qualify as recipients.